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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/01/2007

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Traffic Offense Decriminalization Task Force SB SJM62

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 62 requests the Administrative Office of the Courts to convene a Task Force to study and make recommendations on the decriminalization of traffic offenses. The Joint Memorial requests a Task Force report no later than November 2007.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NFI

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Joint Memorial indicates that traffic warrants represent more than one-half of all outstanding criminal warrants and that research data has demonstrated that criminal traffic warrants do not deter a habitual traffic offender from disregarding traffic laws nor provide increased highway safety. Nationally, state and local governments are examining the traffic citation warrant process costs to the system. Some jurisdictions have amended traffic codes to provide for civil rather than criminal penalties on traffic violations.

Senate Joint Memorial 62 requests that the Task Force include representatives from the New Mexico Association of Counties, the Municipal League, the Public Defender Department, the District Attorneys Association, and the Motor Vehicle Division.

BM/mt